

Senate Bill 38

By: Senator Harp of the 29th

**AS PASSED**

**AN ACT**

To amend Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to death investigations by coroners, so as to clarify that the Georgia Bureau of Investigations has jurisdiction over the post mortem examination or autopsy on persons whose death occurs on certain state property; to provide for the training of canine service dogs for the purpose of body recovery and rescue of persons; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to death investigations by coroners, is amended in Code Section 45-16-25, relating to duties of a coroner or county medical examiner upon receipt of notice of suspicious or unusual death, authority to embalm a body, identification, inventory and disposition of a deceased's property, and use of a deceased's property for evidence, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

"(d) The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is authorized to perform a post mortem examination and autopsy on a person whose death occurs within a state owned or leased building or on the curtilage of such building. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall have jurisdiction relating to the investigation of such a death, and this authority and jurisdiction shall supersede any other authority or jurisdiction provided for by this article relating to a post mortem examination or autopsy."

**SECTION 2.**

Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"45-16-50.

A medical examiner within the state of Georgia is authorized to provide to an approved canine instructor or school certain biological substances such as human blood or bodily fluids for the sole purpose of utilizing such substances for the training and handling of police canines in body recovery of human remains or rescue of persons. Such biological substances shall be contained and transported in accordance with appropriate health and safety standards."

### **SECTION 3.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.